DANGER WAITS AT THE BUILDING LEN MUST INFILTRATE? WHAT WILL HATSUNE DO ABOUT ONDINE'S WARNING?

NO ONE CAN HEAR IT OR SEE IT BUT ME.
IT'S PROBABLY AN ILLUSION MY HEART HAS CONJURED UP.
SHE'S A MYSTERIOUS CREATURE THAT SHOWS UP DURING CRUCIAL TIMES TO GIVE ME WORDS OF WARNING.

HAPPINESS OP. 5

ART:
MAYU KOSUGI

ORIGINAL CONCEPT:
UTATA P

STORY:
TORY HITSUJI
(PUBLISHED BY PHP INSTITUTE, INC.)

CHARACTER DESIGN:
wogura

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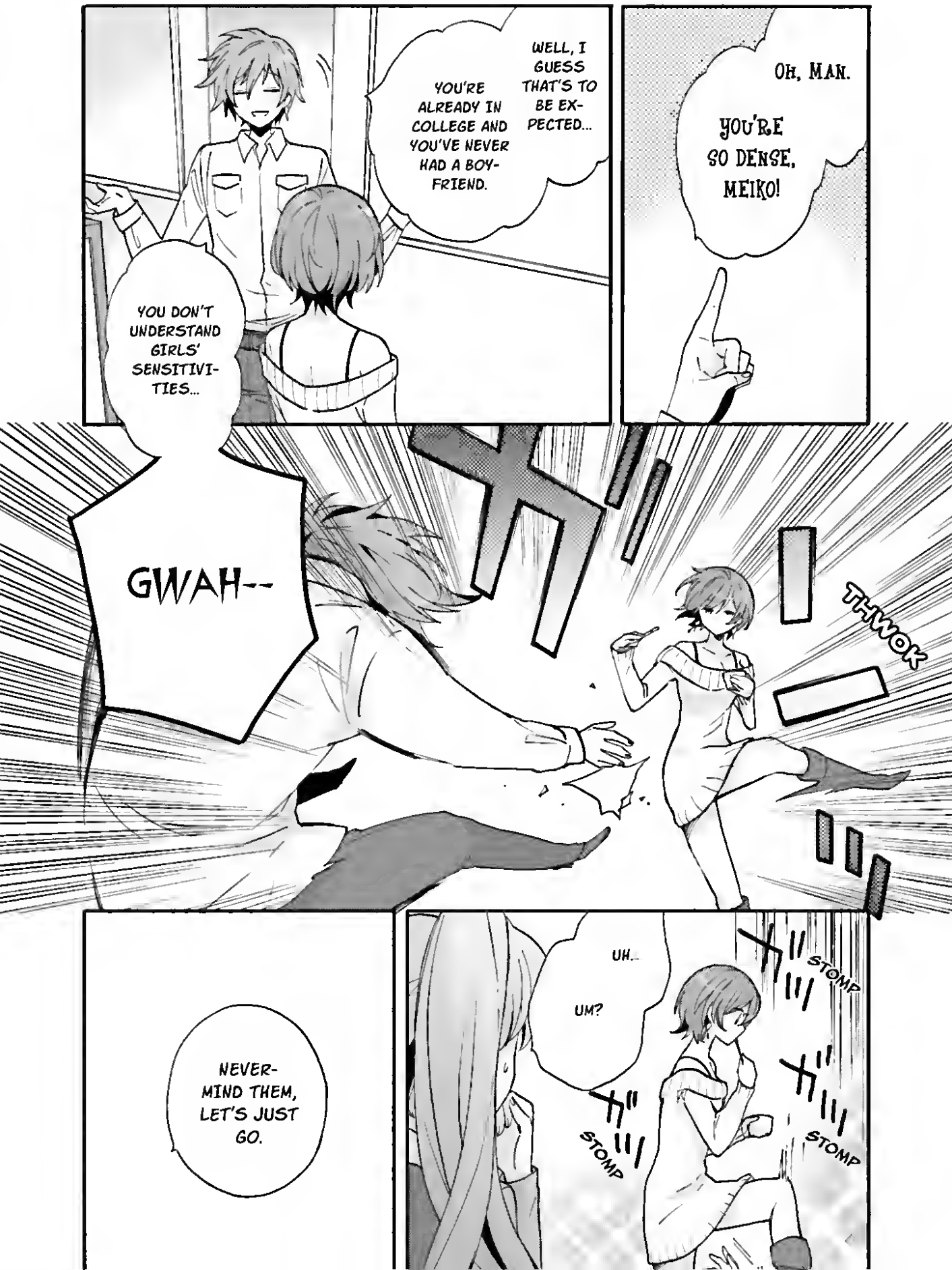
Danger.
It's dangerous.
DANGER?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
Danger.
Stop him.
Say, "Don't go."
Something terrible will happen...
I CAN'T SAY THAT
EVEN IF I DID, LEN WOULD JUST...
All right, but you'll be sorry.

WHY AM I SO UNEASY?
IS SOMETHING GOING TO HAPPEN IF LEN GETS INVOLVED WITH THE HAPPINESS AND PEACE OF MIND COMMITTEE?
OH...
KAI...
IF YOU HAVE A SMALLISH SCREW-DRIVER, CAN I BORROW IT?
カ-ン
CLUNK
YOU NEED ONE?
HOW'S THIS FOR YOU?
ぽしっ
CATCH
ポーン
TOSS
IT'LL WORK.

...MEIKO!
...!
?
.....
CAN I GO WITH LEN TOO?!
...HUH?
HATSUNE?
WITH LEN?
WHY?


WELL, I GUESS THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED...
YOU'RE ALREADY IN COLLEGE AND YOU'VE NEVER HAD A BOYFRIEND.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND GIRLS' SENSITIVITIES...
OH, MAN.
YOU'RE SO DENSE, MEIKO!
GWAH--
THWOK
UH...
UM?
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
NEVERMIND THEM, LET'S JUST GO.

UH?
I'M COMING!
I'M NOT GONNA SAY IT AGAIN
IF YOU'RE COMING, HURRY UP
OH--
SURE!
I'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND
AH...

IS HE WALKING SLOWLY...
...SO THAT I CAN KEEP UP?
HE ALWAYS SPEAKS SO BLUNTLY...
BUT...
SHWIP
AH--!

BUT...
DON'T MOVE.
IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE SO NERVOUS ALL THE TIME..
...IT'LL BE A PAIN IF YOUR HAIR GETS CAUGHT UP IN YOUR STRAP.
YOU CAN IMAGINE THAT, I'M SURE.
BUT...
HE'S SO GENTLE.

IF IT'S SOMETHING ABOUT YOU, YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE.
THAT'S WHAT YOU SHOULD SAY.
"I'LL BE CAREFUL FROM NOW ON."
NO, THAT'S WRONG.
OH, UM... I'M SORRY!
ALL RIGHT, I GOT IT.
ER...
UM...

TH-
THANK YOU.
UH HUH.

...HM?
HE LOOKS KIND OF...
...UPSET.
OR SOME-THING?
I WONDER...
...DID I SAY SOMETHING STRANGE?

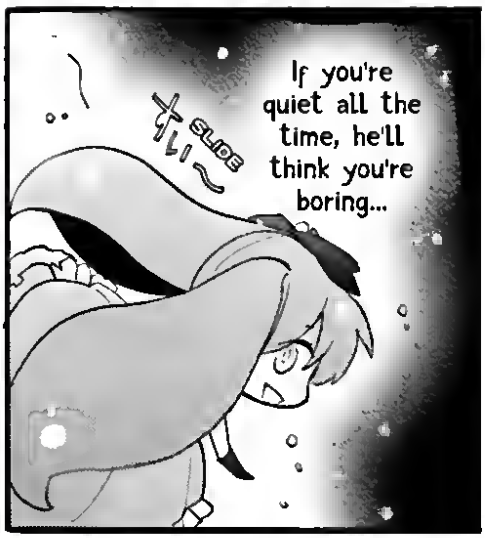
It is your duty to be happy.
It is your duty to be happy.
Everyone, It is your duty to be happy.
It's your duty, you know!
Are you performing your duty?
Are you happy?
THE PERFECT RULER OF THE CITY-STATE, QUEEN SIREN.
And we support that happiness.
We, the Happiness and Peace of Mind Committee...
...wish for everyone's happiness.

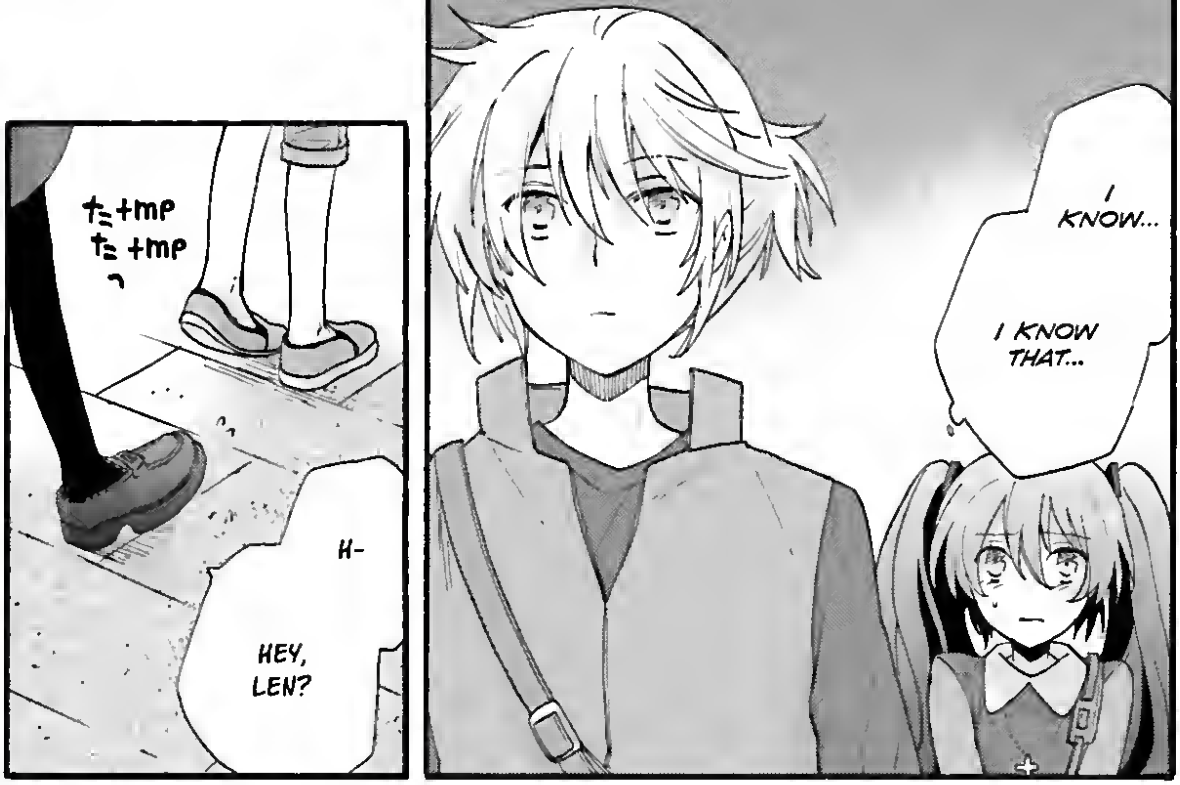
THE ERA WHEN A GROUP OF UNKNOWN AND MYSTERIOUS GROWN-UPS...
...HAD COMPLETE POLITICAL CONTROL OVER THE PEOPLE IN THIS CITY-STATE...
...ENDED QUITE A LONG TIME AGO, ACCORDING TO MY HISTORY CLASS.
AND NOW, QUEEN SIREN ALLOWS US TO BE PERFECTLY HAPPY AND SECURE WITH HER DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION OVER THIS NATION.
WHEN PEOPLE GET INVOLVED IN CORRUPTION OR HARM OTHERS,
...THE QUEEN TAUGHT US WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES SHOULD BE... A PUBLIC FREE EXECUTION.

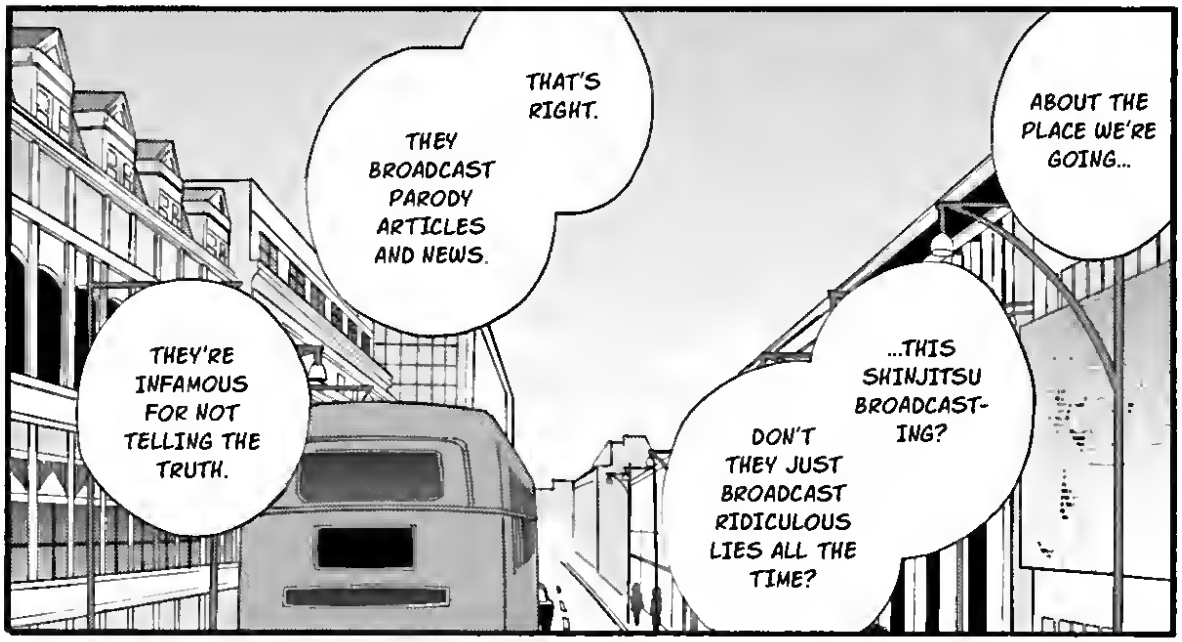
THE HAPPINESS AND PEACE OF MIND COMMITTEE IS A SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND WELFARE.
BUT IT IS THE QUEEN...
...WHO ALLOWS THE HAPPINESS COMMITTEE UNLIMITED POWER TO PERFORM EXECUTIONS.
IF SOMEONE IS PROVED TO BE AN UN-HAPPINESS DISSIDENT...
...NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE, THEY ARE EXECUTED.
I'VE HEARD EVEN ADMINISTRATIVE MEMBERS OF THE HAPPINESS COMMITTEE WOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO GO FREE...
THE HAPPINESS COMMITTEE IS AN EFFICIENT EXECUTION MACHINE THAT DOLES OUT ABSOLUTE JUSTICE.
PERHAPS IT'S NATURAL THAT LEN WANTS TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE.
BUT...

I DON'T WANT LEN TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE HAPPINESS COMMITTEE...
WHY DO I FEEL LIKE THIS, THOUGH?
IT'S KIND OF...
...A STRANGE DISTUR-BANCE IN MY HEART.
WHY?
Shouldn't you be talking to him?
SWHIP

NN...

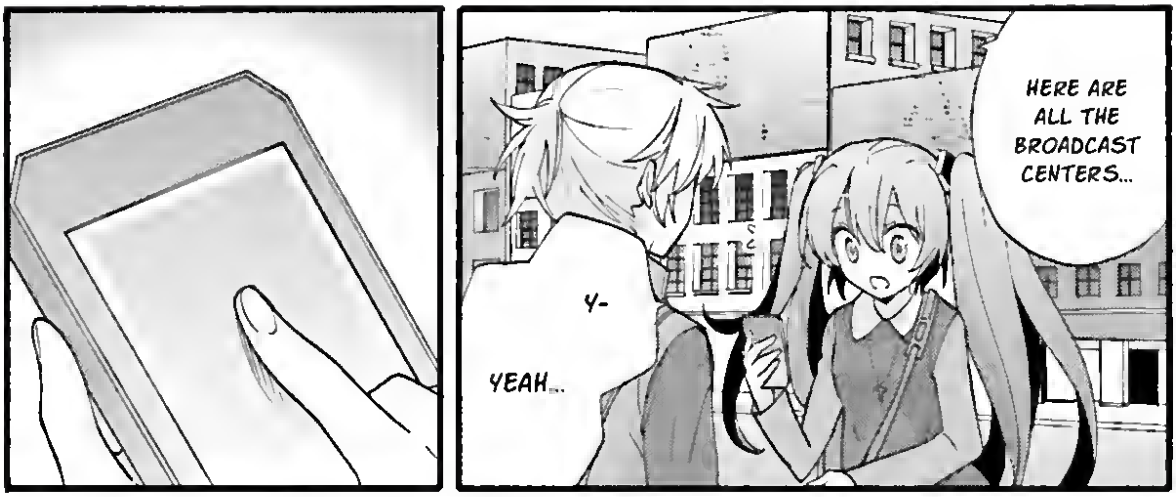

If you're quiet all the time, he'll think you're boring...
SLIDE


たったったっ
H-
HEY, LEN?
I KNOW...
I KNOW THAT...


THAT'S RIGHT.
THEY BROADCAST PARODY ARTICLES AND NEWS.
THEY'RE INFAMOUS FOR NOT TELLING THE TRUTH.
ABOUT THE PLACE WE'RE GOING...
...THIS SHINJITSU BROADCAST-ING?
DON'T THEY JUST BROADCAST RIDICULOUS LIES ALL THE TIME?

THEN THERE'S KIND OF NO POINT IN INVES-TIGATING...
THEY ALSO KNOW THAT NOTHING BUT LIES IS POSTED ON THEIR WEBSITE.
NO ONE BELIEVES ONE WORD OF WHAT SHINJITSU PUTS OUT.

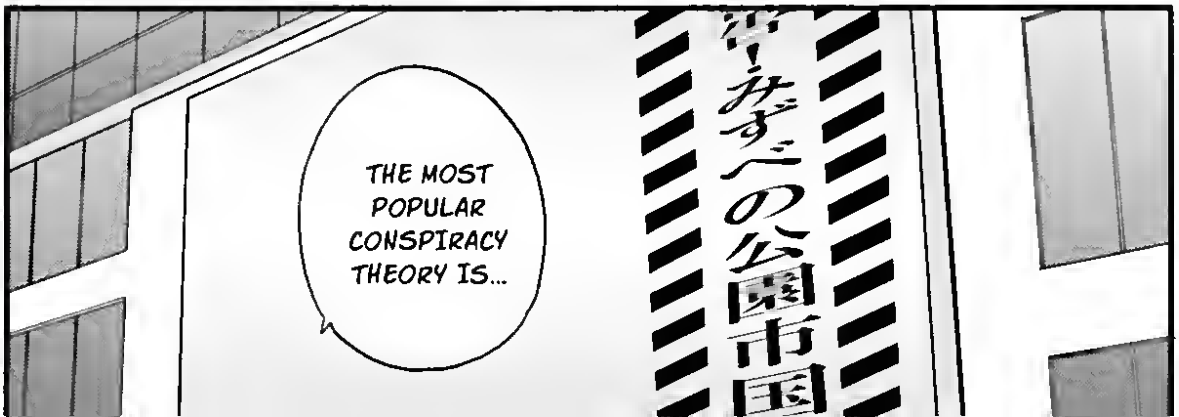
THE RATINGS.
LET'S LOOK AT THE RATINGS OF TELEVISION PROGRAMS...
...AND DAILY HITS ON NEWS SITES...


HERE ARE ALL THE BROADCAST CENTERS...
Y-
YEAH...

PUBLIC BROADCASTING WISHES FOR EVERYONE'S HAPPINESS
THIS...
...IS THE ONE EVERYONE CONSIDERS THE MOST SUSPICIOUS.
AH...

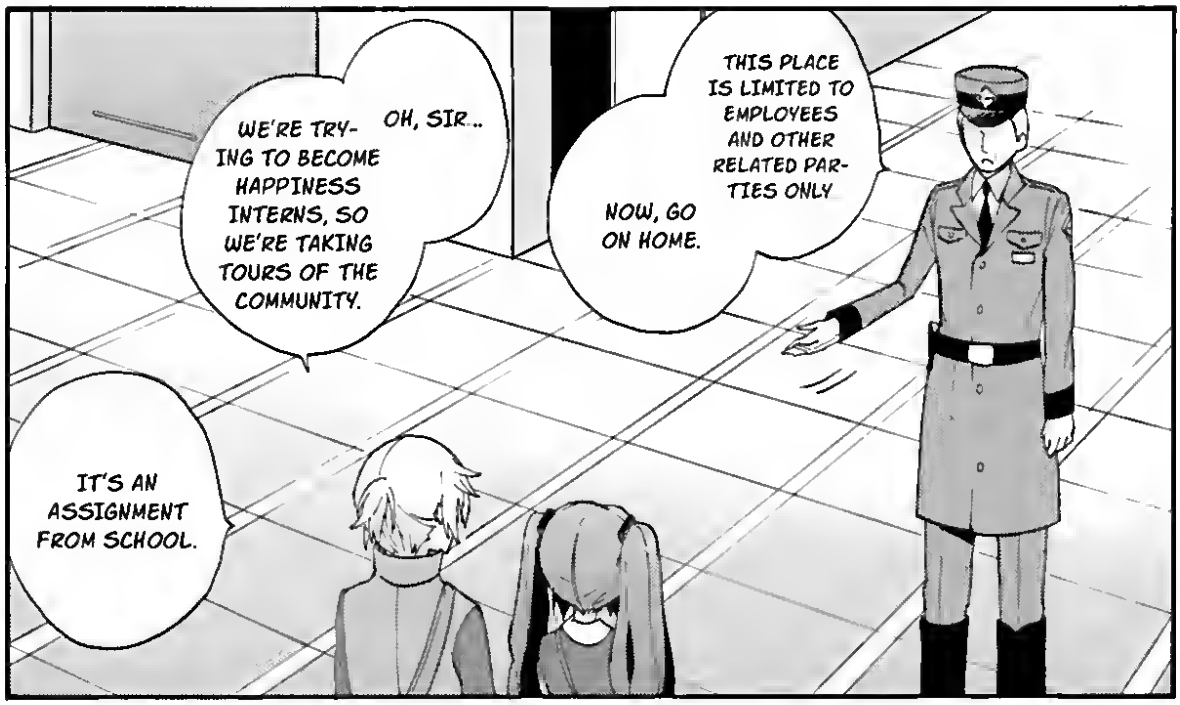
3. SHINJITSU BROADCASTING
UP 20 POINTS SINCE LAST WEEK.
DESPITE THE FACT THAT IT'S JUST SILLY NEWS STO-RIES...
...IT GETS GOOD RATINGS.
1
2
3 SHINJITSU BROADCASTING
4
...THIRD.
THERE'S NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE AT ALL.
BUT THAT'S WHY...
...WE HAVE TO INVESTIGATE.
A LOT OF PEOPLE WATCH THIS STATION.
DO YOU THINK THIS MIGHT BE SUSPI-CIOUS?
I DON'T KNOW...
THERE'S A 50% CHANCE.
NO, 60%.

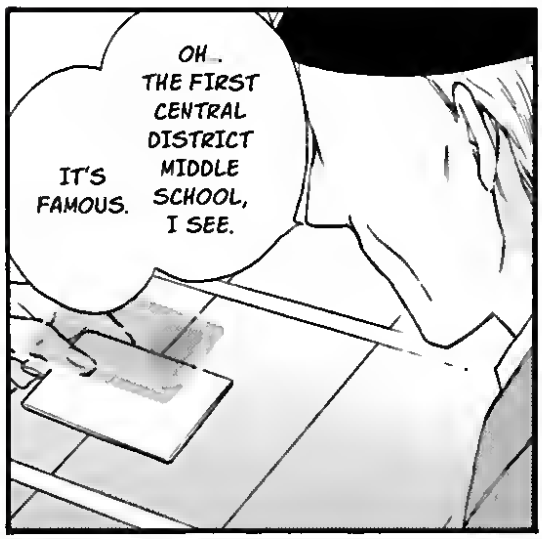
SIGN: ANNOUNCEMENT! LAKESIDE PARK CITY-STATE IS...



...THAT SOMEONE IS CONTROLLING THE GOVERNMENT OR COMPANIES FROM THE SHADOWS.
THIS MAY BE AN UNCONSCIOUS REAL-LIFE MANIFESTATION OF THAT.
ARE WE GOING TO...
...GO INSIDE THIS BUILDING?
WELL,
WHAT ELSE WOULD WE DO?
ぎゅっ
Squeeze

HEY!
YOU TWO!
OH...
OH...

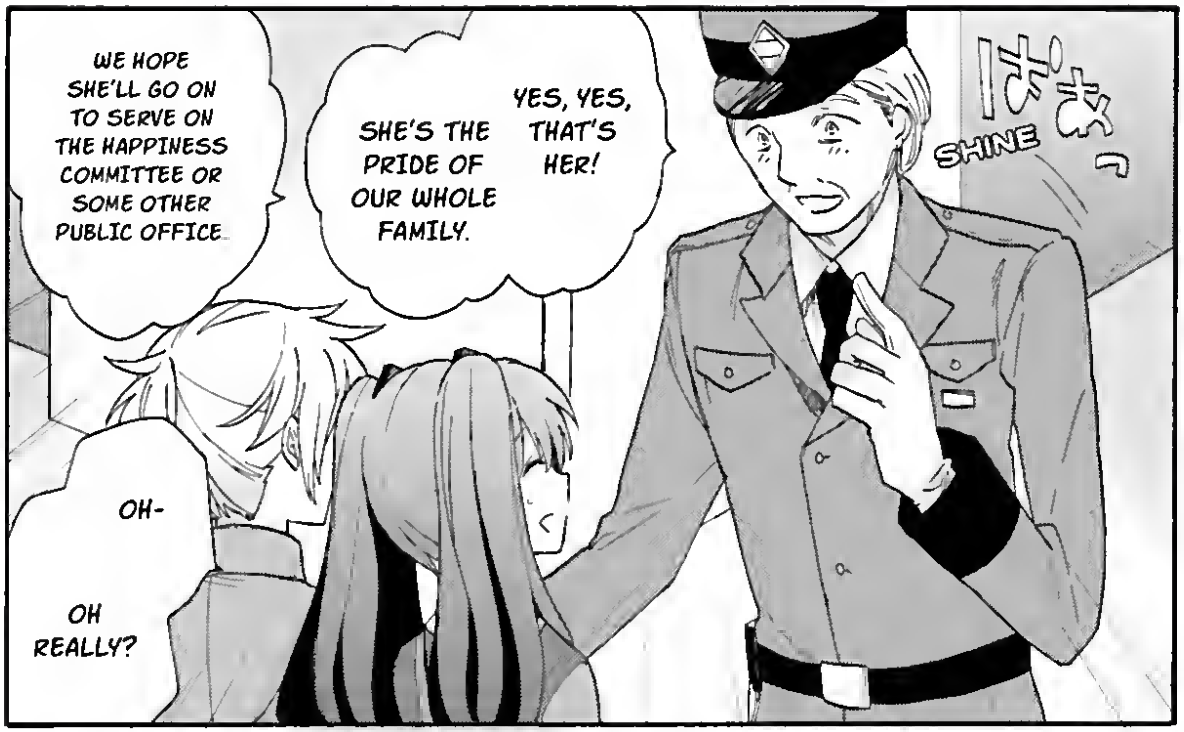

THIS PLACE IS LIMITED TO EMPLOYEES AND OTHER RELATED PARTIES ONLY
NOW, GO ON HOME.
OH, SIR...
WE'RE TRYING TO BECOME HAPPINESS INTERNS, SO WE'RE TAKING TOURS OF THE COMMUNITY.
IT'S AN ASSIGNMENT FROM SCHOOL.


OH... THE FIRST CENTRAL DISTRICT MIDDLE SCHOOL, I SEE.
IT'S FAMOUS.

HERE'S MY STUDENT ID.
MAYBE YOU COULD TAKE A LOOK AT IT FOR ME?

MY RELATIVE'S SMARTEST CHILD GOES TO THAT SCHOOL.
REALLY?
WHAT'S THEIR NAME?
シャッ!!!

FIRST CENTRAL DISTRICT MIDDLE SCHOOL NAME REGISTRY
1ST YEAR
2ND YEAR
3RD YEAR
GROUP A
GROUP B
GROUP C
A
KA
SA
TA
AH...!
NUDGE
AH...
UM...
I KNOW THAT GIRL!
SHE'S IN SOFTBALL AND SOFT TENNIS WITH US!
SHE'S... SHE'S OUR UNDER-CLASSMAN!
SHE'S VERY SWEET.
SERIOUS AND VERY CONFIDENT.
UH...
UM...


WE HOPE SHE'LL GO ON TO SERVE ON THE HAPPINESS COMMITTEE OR SOME OTHER PUBLIC OFFICE.
SHE'S THE PRIDE OF OUR WHOLE FAMILY.
YES, YES, THAT'S HER!
ぱぁっ
SHINE
OH-
OH REALLY?

EVERYONE IN OUR SCHOOL IS LIKE THAT.
ALL OF OUR UPPERCLASSMEN ARE AIMING TO BE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES OR MEMBERS OF THE HAPPINESS COMMITTEE.
...WHATEVER THEY CHOOSE, THEY'RE AIMING TO BE HIGH-LEVEL PUBLIC EMPLOYEES.
AND SO WE'VE DECIDED TO TRY AND BECOME MEMBERS OF THE HAPPINESS COMMITTEE.
BROADCASTING THE PEACEFUL NEWS TO THE CITIZENS OF THIS CITY-STATE IS...
...AN INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT JOB.
SO WE CAME TO LOOK INTO WHAT THIS BROADCASTING COMPANY DOES.
AND WE'RE THINKING ABOUT SUBMITTING A REPORT ON OUR TOUR OF THIS FACILITY.

...AH.
LET ME JUST GO GET YOU SOME TOUR BOOKS.
ALL RIGHT.
I SEE... WELL, I ADMIRE THAT.
THAT SCHOOL REALLY TURNS OUT SOME GREAT STUDENTS.

...ABOUT HER BEING BULLIED?
ARE YOU WORRIED...

UH...
THIS ISN'T MEANT TO BE A GIVE-AND-TAKE THING BUT...

...THAT WE CAN'T IGNORE THOSE EARLY SIGNS OF HAPPINESS DISSIDENCE.
IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE KIDS...
DON'T WORRY.
WE TAKE GREAT CARE OF OUR UNDERCLASS-MEN, YOU KNOW.

YOU TWO MAY BE YOUNG, BUT YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY PERFECT CITIZENS.
THE YOUHG LADY YOU HAVE WITH YOU IS YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU BOTH HAPPY.
GIRL-FR--
はぁー Phew
YOU'RE SO CLEVER THAT YOU'RE HAPPINESS IN ACTION.
I MIGHT EVEN SAY I'M JEALOUS.
シュッ Shu
OF COURSE WE'RE HAPPY.
IT'S OUR DUTY!
HIGH CLASS SCHOOLS ARE GIVIHG OUT ASSIGHMEHTS LIKE THAT HOWADAYS?
GOODNESS GRACIOUS.
THE FACT THAT WE ARE DOIHG THE ASSIGNMEHT TOGETHER...
..WAS ALSO RECOMMEHDED BY THE SCHOOL, TO IHCREASE THE OVERALL LEVEL OF HAPPIHESS.
WE GAIN EXTRA CREDIT FOR OUR TROUBLE.
YEP.
JUST THOUGHT IT UP ON THE FLY.
KOMEITO ﾆﾔﾘ
LEN, THAT WAS ALL...

ALL RIGHT, HERE'S YOUR ENTRY CARD.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
Shh
WELL, BE SURE TO LET YOUR GIRLFRIEND SEE YOUR GOOD SIDE
!
whisper
LET'S HURRY IN.
WE'LL BE SURE TO LET THE SCHOOL KNOW...
...YOU DID SUCH A NICE THING FOR US.
OH YOU DON'T--
WELL, THANK YOU
BYE NOW.
OH...
RIGHT.
AH...
THERE'S THE USUAL LEN.

THIS IS PROBABLY BECAUSE...

...THAT SECURITY OFFICER MIGHT STILL BE WATCHING US GO.

THAT'S WHY...

...IT'D TOTALLY BE NATURAL FOR US TO WALK HAPPILY HAND-IN-HAND LIKE THIS.

THAT'S A PART OF LEN'S PLAN TOO.

BUT...

STILL...

I'M FINE WITH THAT.
EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR NOW.
EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR THE TIME HE'S AN APPRENTICE HAPPINESS INTERN.

Are you sure?

You're fine with things going on this way?
It's very dangerous from here on...
Shouldn't you stop him?

"THE TWO OF THEM SUCCESSFULLY INFILTRATED THE BUILDING! WHAT DANGER AWAITS THEM NOW...?"